

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

- The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 6 under §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 5,584,207 to Paul et al. (hereinafter Paul). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because Paul fails to anticipate Applicant's claims.

Claim 1 sets forth a motor supporting device comprising a motor accommodating section for accommodating and holding a motor therein, a gear holding section, and a covering section, which is monolithically formed with the motor accommodating section and flatly covers the gear holding section.

For example, as shown in Figs. 1, 2, 5, and 7, a motor supporting device 7 according to one embodiment of the present invention comprises a motor accommodating section 8 for accommodating and holding a motor 5 therein, a gear holding section 9, and a covering section 10, which is monolithically formed with the motor accommodating section 8 and flatly covers the gear holding section 9. That is, the motor 5 is accommodated and held within the motor accommodating section 8.

The Examiner asserts that motor receiving opening 154 is a motor accommodating portion for holding a motor therein.¹ However, motor receiving opening 154 does not hold the motor therein. Instead, the motor is mounted to the integrally-formed housing member 130 by screws 163 that extend through holes 160, 162 in the cover 132. Further, the motor 122 includes a shaft to which motor gear 120 is attached, and it is the motor shaft and gear 120 that extend through the opening 154 so that the gear 120 can mesh with third gear 118. Further, the motor 122 extends away from one face of the housing cover 132. See Fig. 1. Therefore, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Paul fails to disclose a motor accommodating portion for accommodating and holding a motor therein, as set forth in claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, claim 1 is not anticipated by Paul.

¹ Office Action at page 2, item 3, paragraph 3.

Claim 2 sets forth a motor supporting device comprising a motor accommodating section for accommodating and holding a motor therein, a gear holding section, and a covering section, wherein the covering section comprises a side pressing section that abuts to an end portion of the gear provided to a drive shaft of the motor. Because the covering section comprises a side pressing section that abuts to an end portion of the gear provided to a drive shaft of the motor, the motor supporting device suppresses the noise of the gear.

For example, as shown in Figs. 1 and 5, one embodiment of the invention includes a motor accommodating portion 8, a gear holding section 9, and a covering section 10, wherein the covering section 10 includes a side pressing section 17 that abuts to an end portion of a gear 6 provided to the motor drive shaft.

First, the Examiner asserts that Paul discloses a covering section comprising a side pressing section that abuts to an end portion of the gear. However, contrary to that asserted by the Examiner, and to that set forth in claim 2, Paul discloses a housing cover 132 having a motor receiving opening 154 through which the shaft of the motor 122 and gear 120 extend. Further, because the housing cover 132 is fitted to the integrally-formed housing member 130 before the motor assembly 122 is attached to the cover, the gear 120 must be smaller than hole 154 and, therefore, it does not abut against any portion of the cover 132.² Accordingly, Paul fails to disclose a covering section comprising a side pressing section that abuts to an end portion of the gear provided to a drive shaft of a motor, as set forth in claim 2.

Second, similarly to claim 1, claim 2 sets forth a motor accommodating section for accommodating and holding a motor therein. This recitation is the same as that set forth in claim 1 and, therefore Applicant's above-noted comments with respect to claim 1 are pertinent to claim 2 as well. Specifically, Paul fails to disclose a motor accommodating section as set forth in claim 2.

² Paul at col. 8, line 59 to col. 9, line 2.

For at least any one of the above reasons, claim 2 is not anticipated by Paul. Likewise, dependent claims 3 and 6 are not anticipated by Paul.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

• The Examiner rejected claims 5, 7, and 8, under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paul in view of US Patent 5,654,847 to Yagi et al. (hereinafter Yagi). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because the references fail to establish *prima facie* obviousness in that they fail to teach or suggest every element as set forth in Applicant's claims.

With respect to claim 7, the Examiner notes that Paul fails to disclose a covering section being bendably formed with respect to a motor accommodating section.³ But as noted above Paul also fails to disclose a motor accommodating section for accommodating and holding a motor therein. The Examiner cites Yagi as teaching a bendable link portion. However, Yagi does not teach or suggest a covering section that is monolithically formed with a motor accommodating section for accommodating and holding a motor therein. Therefore, *arguendo*, even assuming that one of ordinary skill in the art were motivated to combine Paul and Yagi as suggested by the Examiner, any such combination would still fail to render obvious Applicant's claim 7. Likewise, dependent claim 8 is not rendered obvious by Paul and Yagi.

With respect to claim 5, the Examiner again notes that Paul fails to disclose a covering section bendably formed with respect to the motor accommodating section.⁴ Further, as noted above, Paul also fails to disclose a covering section comprising a side pressing section that abuts to an end portion of the gear provided to a drive shaft of a motor. The Examiner cites Yagi as teaching a bendable link portion. But Yagi does not teach or suggest a covering section comprising a side pressing section that abuts to an end portion of the gear provided to a drive shaft of a motor. Therefore, *arguendo*, even assuming that one of ordinary skill in the art were

³ Office Action at page 4, 1st full paragraph.

⁴ *Id.*

Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
US Appln. 09/554,670

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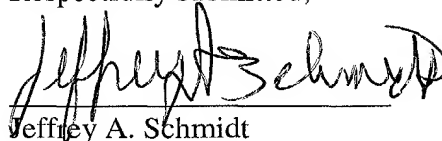
motivated to combine Paul and Yagi as suggested by the Examiner, any such combination would still fail to render obvious Applicant's claim 5.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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